

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

GARMENTS FOR THE SUMMER GIRL
ARE DESIGNED IN MIDWINTER.

Mate Leroy Gives a Forecast of What the Next Season May Bring Forth and Describes Some Novelties in Cold Weather Costumes—Children's Garments.

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It is in the dead of winter that the stuffs we are to wear in the coming summer are prepared, or rather imported into this country. The largest houses have them now, but they are shown only to the elect for the first couple of weeks, just long enough for them to pick and choose the ones they like best. After that a few of the prettiest patterns are shown in the windows surrounded by flowers, laces and



FOR WALKING AND RECEPTION.

ribbons. One house is making a sort of theatrical background of trees and a villa, to set off the delicate fabrics in store for the summer girl. Cotton goods cost little, and therefore they need to be treated with extreme respect to make them appear desirable in the eyes of those accustomed to the luxurious goods furnished by millions of little women who meet untimely deaths for that purpose. What a lot of sacrifice is made to female beauty in the way of fur, feather and silk! The delicate loveliness of the new summer goods would seem to prove that all that sacrifice was needless.

Linen and fine grasses cloths are produced in the most exquisite designs and colorings and in different weaves. There are linen batistes in every imaginable pattern, some in large and some in small designs. Imagine anything more lovely than a sheer batiste printed in a Persian design with all its artistic mingling of tints. Flowers of all kinds, colors and sizes are seen, some of the most beautiful having blue gentians and other blue flowers, as true to life as paintings. Then there are other linen batistes all white with a sort of chevron weave, which is well-defined, yet does not destroy the thin sheerness of the fabric, which is its true beauty.

Then there are pure and fine linen lawns, both plain and printed. These will be trimmed with the delicate lisse laces, which are the only ones fine enough for the purpose, except the valenciennes, which will always be a suitable garniture for light stables. These are pretty printed lawns as well as white ones. There are pinhead dots in scarlet, pink, blue, green or black, and also in several shades of brown. The dots are about the size of pinheads. There are others as large as a pea, but the smaller ones are prettier. The lawns are also shown in floral patterns and occasionally in palm leaf designs, while a few of them have blurred figures to imitate the cheney silks. There are linen gingham. I have never seen any of these before, and rather believe the importer who declares this to be a new departure. These are in all the regulation colorings and patterns, with something about them new and differing from any other gingham. They are rather harsh to the feel, but will be very strong and I am sure will wash well. The mixture of colors is very artistic and tasteful.

For shirt and blouse waists—and there will be plenty of them next summer—there are striped linens, some of the stripes being chevron woven and others plain. Indigo blue, with all the colors with which it harmonizes, will be much seen. Indigo blue and white stripes makes a pretty stuff, and a useful, fadeless one, that will stand any amount of racking.

There is linen duck in dark blue solid, in light blue, white and two or three nankin or tan shades. Drills are also among the output for 1896, and these are in several colors. There are other linen twills and "coarse weave" and basket weaves for cutting dresses. The style for making them has not yet been designed. All the above named goods are of linen. There is also much fine natural grasscloth in its soft, greenish gray, and this will be trimmed with lace to match in heavy gray flax thread and braids in pretty patterns.

In cottons there are the daintiest French organdies, printed and in plain colors and also in plain white. These are among the very finest of all the new goods. The India dimities are very tasteful and pretty and are shown in light solid colors, and also in plain white as well as printed. A white dimitie, with moss rose buds scattered over it, is a dress to be desired. Brilliantine is an old, old favorite resuscitated from the grave of oblivion. This is a sort of soft jaconet, with broadened figures always of the same color. In white it is like satin, and it washes well. In tan or other fast color it is equally pretty. The laces nearly always fade, and the pink and blues so far have not been very "trustable"—that is, they were not in those old days. Perhaps the dyes are better now.

This by no means completes the list of next summer's dainties, for there are Persian lawns, India linens, and it is said that a whole gown made of these will pass through a finger ring without crushing, and I almost believe it. Victoria lawns



DRESS FOR GIRL AND LOUNGING ROBE.

always have been liked. Now they will be loved, they are so very beautiful, with their new adornment of flowers and tiny sprigs printed upon them.

The madras cloths are virtually new and pleasing in their novel arrangements of color and design. They will be used for blouse waists and separate skirts for out-

ings. There is an unusual number of designs in fine, soft sea island gingham, some of them having silken stripes forming the checks. Gingham is always pretty and neat, and for everyday summer wear nothing has ever given the same satisfaction from its price. It is soft and delicious to the touch, clean in appearance, and it is noncrushable and fadeless—all good qualities.

Besides these there are nainsooks and several designs and styles in fine cambrics, also in Persian and India lawns. French percales are also, of excellent quality and fast colors for waists and gowns for hard everyday wear. Cheviots are closely imitated in cottons and will be highly appreciated by those who do not quite like the light cotton stuffs. This is light and delicate to touch and yet has the rough appearance of cheviot. Oxford is another imitation of work, so are covers and gaiter tea cloths, and they will have their vogue. Some of the batiste and linen dresses are made with circular skirts and garnished with rennaissance trimming. These will never wash. Grass linen all-embroideries will be used for the grass linen dresses, and a few of the cambrics and nainsooks have edgings and trimmings to match made in embroidery, sometimes white and sometimes faintly colored. There are also some very dainty new cotton challies with satin stripes, and these are printed in artistic small flowers. Challies will be largely used for dresses for children and very young girls.

I had almost forgotten that this is mid-winter and that furs and thick woollen goods are the only ones we see in the streets and at home. The fact was called to my mind by putting my hand in my pocket and there finding a piece of a gown just finished for a handsome young bride of a year. This was made for a very swell reception and was greatly admired at the dressmaker's. It was of moonlight blue satin duchess, with great figures in very high relief, brocaded upon it in rich myrtle green. These covered the surface in regular lines. The trim, pointed waist was made of it, and so were the sleeves. The corsage was cut to a point both front and back and simply piped with plain satin. Over it was worn a Marie Antoinette fichu of pale blue silk muslin printed in faint oriental colors. The satin is as thick as the proverbial board, and though but 27 inches wide cost \$15 a yard. But it was superb and not to be easily copied, which is a consideration with many ladies.

At the same establishment there was a very stylish walking costume, a symphony in brown. The dress was of heavy brown diagonal cord, of a rich mahogany shade. Around the bottom of the skirt there was a narrow row of mink, and just above that a row of ecru guipure. The cape was of seal, with mink trimmings, and the hat of mahogany rope, with ribbon bows and feathers in different shades of brown. The gloves were tan. The whole effect was singularly pleasing. The diagonal corded cheviot is one of the handsomest materials of the year. It has a little mohair in it which shows through just a little at the surface mingled with the dull Australian wool.

Of the prettiest as well as most useful of all the woollen fabrics is the swans-down flannel. It is so fleecy and soft and looks so downy and restful that it is no



WINTER GARMENTS FOR GIRLS.

wonder that women have their favorite lounging robes made of it. It now comes a yard wide and costs but 25 to 35 cents, and six yards make a full robe. With a good pattern it is next to no trouble to make. It comes in slate, white, gray in several shades, drab, blue, pink and cardinal, and also it can be had in stripes of various colors. The prettiest one I have seen yet was in a pearly gray, slightly gathered at the neck and just below the waist line. There was a silk cord, with tassels around the waist, and a wide collar lined with gray taffeta and bound with satin ribbon. The sleeves were very novel, the upper part being gigot and the lower like an old fashioned bell sleeve, all cut in one piece.

Children share in the lovely gowns of this season, as they wear the same materials as their mothers, except when it comes to the rich silken fabrics. Mohairs, chevrons, boucles, cloths and camel's hairs are all suitable for them, and for their party or "best" dresses taffeta is suitable, and so are the plaid silks. Only the lighter qualities, however, are deemed proper for the young. True, some foolish mothers will put the richest stuffs and real laces upon their children, never thinking of the days when the little ones will be big, and then find nothing good enough for their larger needs. Gowns for girls are very neat this season, and not very showy. One made of changeable taffeta in dove colors had three narrow folds at the bottom of the skirt. The blouse waist had a lace front and some dark blue embroidery on the straps. Blue ribbon trimmed it very acceptably. This was a "best" gown. One for a girl of 8 was of mottled cheviot, green and brown. The waist was of plaid poplin, trimmed with straps and gilt buttons. A girl of 15 had a dress of checked cheviot in several colors, russet brown predominating. It was trimmed by flat bands of dark brown velvet around the bottom and on the waist, held down by large tan covered buttons. The melon sleeves had narrow pipings of velvet along the seams. It was a very tidy and girlish conceit, and one very easy to copy in any seasonable goods.

A pretty, useful and serviceable cloak for a girl of from 10 to 13 was a close fitting ulster of brown plush, with balloon puff sleeves. There was a cape reaching to the waist of the plush, bordered with a mink, and over the shoulders there was a wide fancy collar of the same, the ends of which reached the bottom. This coat would look well even with very hard usage for three seasons, the first one for best, the next for second best and the third for school or every day. It should be made rather large in the body, to let out. "Economy is the source of wealth."

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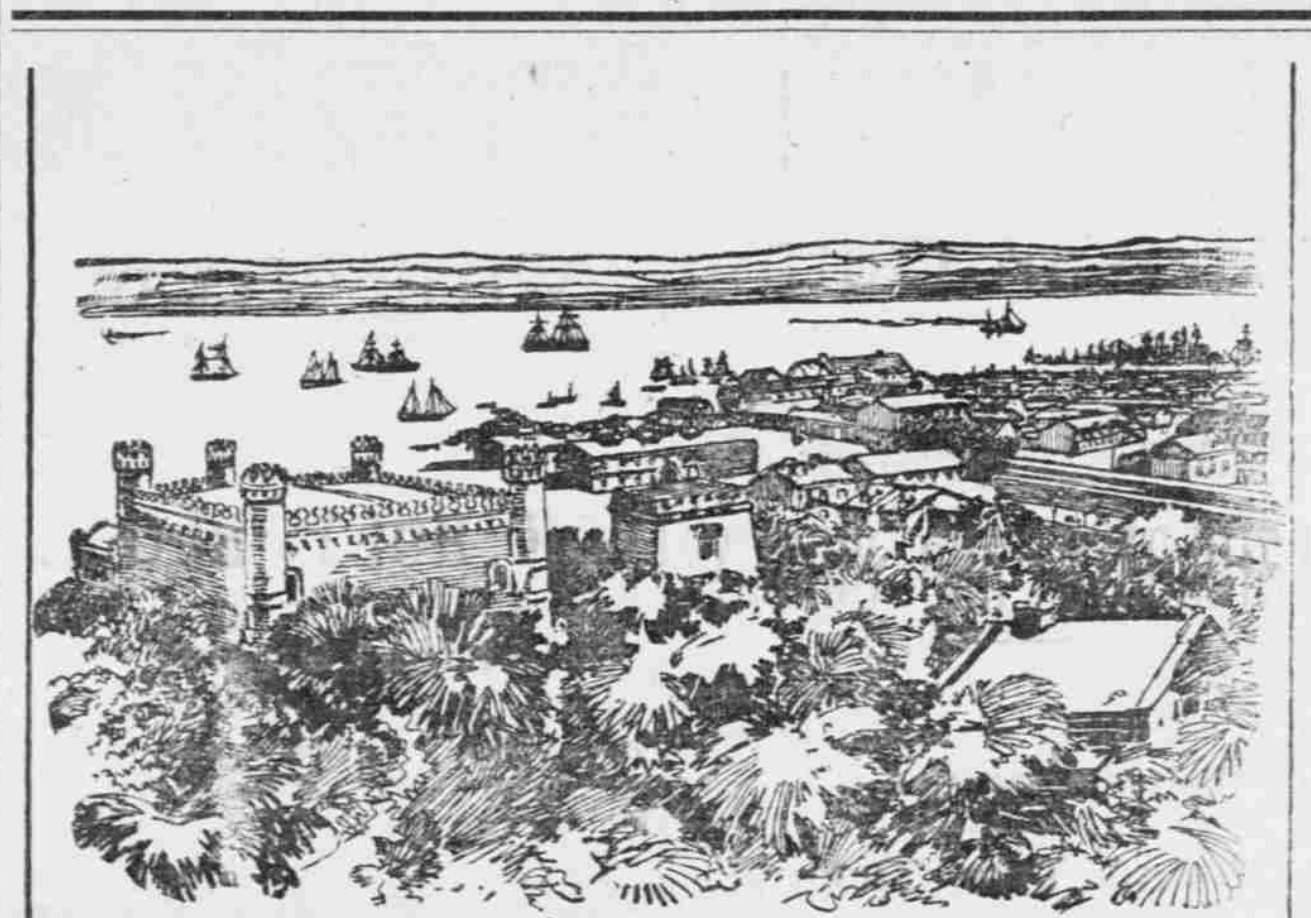
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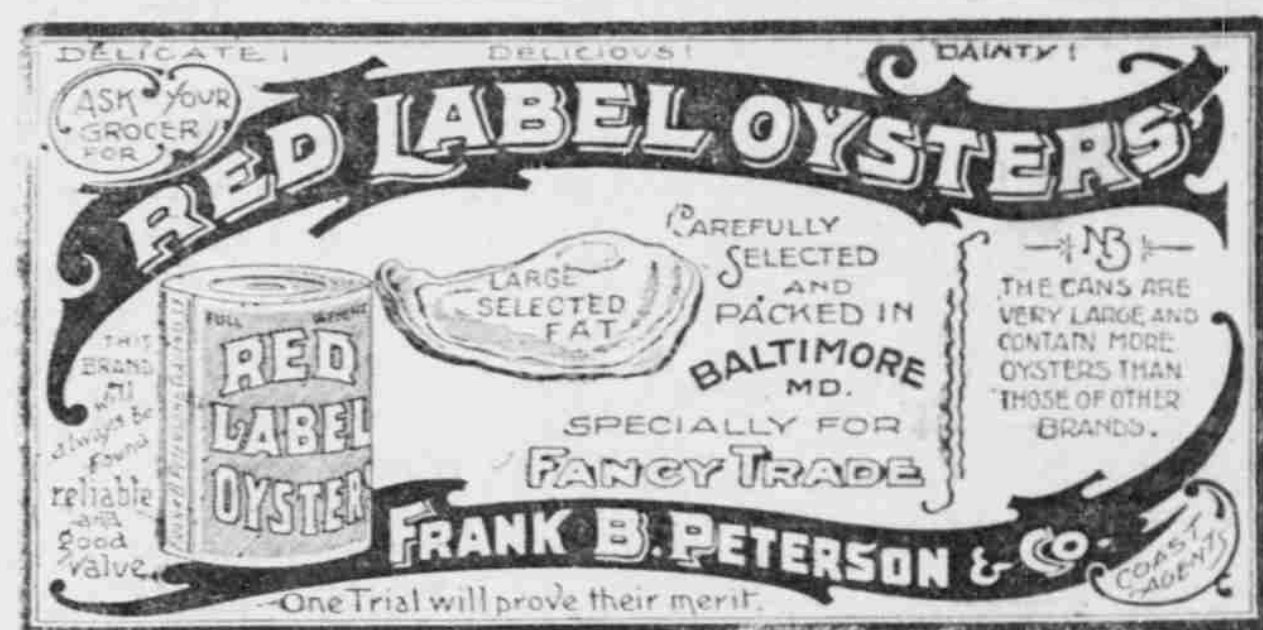
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